

People



## Michael J. Larson

Partner, Litigation

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vCard

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Michael Larson advises clients on a range of complex environmental law issues arising in litigation, regulatory, and transactional matters. In addition to handling environmental disputes, he routinely assists clients with the cleanup, reuse, repurposing, and redevelopment of Brownfields and other contaminated or distressed properties. Michael guides clients through obtaining environmental regulatory closure of contaminated sites and also advises on environmental permitting and compliance matters. His practice involves managing and performing significant environmental due diligence and preparing environmental provisions in connection with real estate and corporate transactions.

Michael also has significant appellate litigation experience, having argued appeals before multiple state appellate courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. After working on more than 150 appeals, Michael has deep experience and knowledge of the appellate process and handles appeals from their inception through briefing, oral argument, and rehearing. His litigation experience includes handling complex civil, administrative, and bankruptcy appellate matters and providing trial support. Before joining Akerman, Michael worked in the New York City office of an international law firm where his practice focused on class action defense, white-collar defense, and e-discovery matters.

### Notable Work

#### Environmental Litigation

**Seawall Dispute:** Represented property owners in obtaining favorable final order in defense of construction of a protective seawall in a Coastal Construction Control Line permit challenge before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings. Case involved a multi-day final administrative hearing and substantial expert and fact witness testimony.

**Marina Permit Dispute:** Successfully represented owner of large South Florida marina in obtaining dismissal of environmental

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### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Appellate  
Environmental Litigation  
Brownfields Redevelopment  
Environment and Natural Resources  
PFAS Litigation and Regulatory Counseling

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### Education

J.D., Emory University School of Law, 2008, Dean's List; *Emory International Law Review*, Managing Editor  
B.A., Emory University, Economics, 2005, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

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### Admissions

#### Bars

Florida  
New York  
Illinois  
Georgia

#### Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit  
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York  
U.S. Court of International Trade

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### Related Content

Michael Larson Elected to FBA Board of Directors and Named President-Elect  
January 14, 2025

permit challenge before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings.

### **Environmental Regulatory**

**S. Florida Mixed-Use Redevelopment Site (Brownfield):** Advising owner of 100-acre major mixed-use development project and Brownfield site in Broward County, Florida, in connection with substantial site redevelopment and environmental regulatory closure work.

**N. Florida Mixed-Use Redevelopment Site (Brownfield):** Advising on a variety of environmental issues regarding large mixed-use redevelopment of Brownfield site in Duval County, Florida.

**State Environmental Tax Credits:** Assist with preparation of Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit (VCTC) applications for submission to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and with sale and transfer of VCTC tax credits.

### **Environmental Transactional**

**Environmental Due Diligence:** Advise property owners and prospective property purchasers in connection with environmental due diligence, risk assessment, environmental permit transfers, and environmental insurance matters.

**Nationwide Self-Storage Facility Acquisitions:** Advised on a host of environmental compliance and permitting issues pertaining to acquisition of self-storage facilities throughout the United States.

**Federal Superfund Site:** Assisted with preparation of construction bid documents for significant project to be built at Superfund site.

### **Select Appeals**

**Tort Appeal:** Represented lessor of crane in successfully obtaining affirmance of order denying motion for new trial brought after eight-day jury trial. *White v. Ring Power Corp.*, 261 So. 3d 689 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018), rev. denied, 2019 WL 2295736 (Fla. 2019)

**TCPA Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successfully obtaining affirmance of summary judgment on claims brought under Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). *Lawrence v. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC*, 666 F. App'x 875 (11th Cir. 2016)

**FDCPA and FCCPA Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successfully obtaining affirmance of dismissal of complaint raising claims under Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act (FCCPA). *Alhassid v. Nationstar Mortgage LLC*, 688 F. App'x 803 (11th Cir. 2017)

**FDUTPA Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successful defense of appeal of dismissal of claims brought under Troubled Asset Relief Program, Home Affordable Modification Program, and Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUTPA). *Nivia v. Nationstar Mortgage LLC*, 620 F. App'x 822 (11th Cir. 2015)

**Bankruptcy Appeal:** Represented loan servicer in successfully obtaining affirmance related to bankruptcy discharge injunction and alleged debt collection under FDCPA. *In re: Roth*, 568 B.R. 139 (M.D. Fla. 2017), aff'd, 935 F. 3d 1270 (11th Cir. 2019)

Robyn Neely and Michael Larson to Present on The Legal Fundamentals of Florida Site Contamination  
November 14, 2024

Akerman Sponsors the Annual FSU Real Estate Trends Conference  
November 06, 2024

## Published Work and Lectures

- Environmental and Land Use Law Section of the Florida Bar, Speaker, “Florida Site Contamination: The Legal Fundamentals,” November 14, 2024
- 2024 Annual Florida Brownfields Conference, Moderator, “Brownfields 101,” June 26, 2024
- *Bloomberg Law*, Co-Author, “Biden Environmental Moves May Clash With Supreme Court on Deference,” November 27, 2020
- Tallahassee Bar Association’s Legal Community Conference, Presenter, “Appeals 101: Ten Tips for Better Appellate Practice,” April 27, 2018
- *The Florida Bar Journal*, Volume 89, No.9, Co-Author, “The Right to Relief: Untimely Notice of an Appealable Order,” November 2015

## Affiliations

- Florida Brownfields Association, Board of Directors, President-Elect
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) North Florida, Member
- William H. Stafford American Inn of Court, Barrister Member
- Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, Tallahassee Chapter, Member
- Young Lawyers Section of Tallahassee Bar Association, Board Member, 2016-2019
- Tallahassee Bar Association, Member
- New York State Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association, Member

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2025, Listed in Florida for Litigation - Environmental
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2017-2022, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for Appellate; 2023, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for Environmental